MAHARASHTRA

Administration: The Maharashtra State Archives, formerly known as Secretariat Record Office was established in April 1821. It was placed under a full-time class I Officer-Director of Archives in July 1947. The Government transferred the full charge of the Alienation Office, Poona to the Director with effect from March 1, 1974. Proposals for development of the State Archives are still under consideration of the Government.

Budget: During 1973-74, a sum of Rs.3,78,535 was spent out of a budget provision of Rs.3,90,750 on the non-plan side. For 1974-75 a provision of Rs.7,16,000 was made in the budget. There was no provision in the budget on the plan side. Adequate funds were not available for the development of Archives.

Building: The State Archives is housed in a Government Building viz. Elphinstone College Building and both the institutions find it hard for adequate space. Finalisation of plan and drawings of the proposed new archival building was in progress.

Record Management: 152 confidential and 4,793 non-confidential files were received from the Sachivalaya Departments for scrutiny. All the files excepting 1 confidential and 2 non-confidential were found worth preservation. Percentage of the files marked for retention was 99.34 and 0.04 respectively. The Sachivalaya Departments have their retention schedules.

Research and Reference: During the period under review 41 Research Scholars availed themselves of the research facilities at the Bombay Archives. Besides, 6 scholars were given access to records at Kolhapur Record Office, while 19 at Alienation Office, Poona. 4,252 requisitions from the government, private agencies and individuals were attended to by the Bombay Archives during the period under report.

Reference Media: Bombay Archives: The work of renewing the old lists, key-books etc. in typescript was in progress. The descriptive catalogue of the Public Department Diaries (1720-1820) was being made ready for the press. Cataloguing of Chandwad Daftar-Holkar Records was in progress. 18 rumals comprising 34,380 papers were indexed.

Alienation Office, Poona: Besides indexing 14,780 papers from "Chitnisi Daftar", 405 Persian documents were also indexed.

Kolhapur Record Office: A specimen of catalogue(in English) of 270 documents from "Chitnisi Daftar" was prepared. As a part of Rajarshi Shahu Chhatrapati's Birth-Centenary Programme, indexing of papers from "Shahu Daftar" was taken up.

Publication Programme: (a) The following publications were brought out during the year:

(1) Abdul Dihlawi's Ibrahimnama - critically edited by Shri Devisingh Chauhan, member of the Maharashtra State Board for Archives and Archaeology. This 712 - verse poem in Dakkhani Hindi narrates the life-story of Ibrahim Adil Shah II. It gives us some important information not available in any contemporary history relating to the condition of the Sultan's reign in the year 1603-4, description ~~of~~ birth-day celebrations, nauras palace, the city, the court, etc.

(2) Records of the Shivaji Period - edited by Shri V.G. Khobrekar, Director of Archives and Archaeology. The books is a compilation based on unpublished source material in modi script, covering a period from 1579 to 1707. The documents throw light on revenue policy of the Chhatrapati, his secular and liberal attitude, economic history of Indapur, Supa and Poona parganas in the 17th century and social conditions at Newasa in the 16th century.

(3) Shivaji Memorials: "The British Attitude (A.D. 1885-1926)" - edited by Shri V.G.Khobrekar. The volume contains extracts from records relating to Shivaji Memorial Movement initiated and popularised by Lokmanya Tilak to mobilise nationalism and patriotism among the masses and compel the British Government to keep the Samadhi in good state of repairs and construct a Chhatri over it. This volume served as Maharashtra Archives Bulletin No.11.

(b) The following Publications are in the Press:

(i) Descriptive Catalogue of Papers in "Parasnisi Daftar" (Kolhapur Record Office), and (ii) Descriptive Catalogue of "Papers selected for further Research" (Peshwa Daftar, Poona).

(c) Projects on Hand:

(i) Itinerary of Peshwa Balaji Baji Rao: This material from "Peshwa Rozkird" is so far unpublished (Alienation Office, Poona), and (ii) Descriptive Catalogue of papers in "Shahu Daftar" (Kolhapur Record Office).

Preservation of Records: 2,441 sheets of records were flattened, 1,800 sheets repaired with tissue paper, 641 sheets repaired with chiffon, 1,340 sheets guarded, and 1,067 volumes bound.

Regular dusting was done both by vacuum cleaner and by hand every day. Disinfestation of muniment rooms was done by M/S Pestokem Industries (Pvt.) Ltd. Fumigation Chamber was also put into commission regularly.

Photo-Duplication: This Archives does not have Microfilming Unit.

Library: 108 publications were acquired for Reference Section. Besides, 507 Maharashtra Government and 18 Gujarat Government publications were received. Inadequate funds stood in the way of any expansion of the library on a large scale.

Exhibition: Permanent exhibition of documents were kept on display on the office premises to inculcate archives consciousness among the public who visited office.

Training in Archives-Keeping: During the year none was deputed for training in Archives-Keeping.